

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028296

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:SEWARD/OSD/ISA/NESA:APRADOS

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OJCS: GEN. KIEFE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 028296

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE ANALYSIS TEAM

REF: (A) AMMAN 717; (B) AMMAN 750

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS REFS A AND B ON AIR DEFENSE ANALYSIS TEAM'S ACTIVITIES IN JORDAN. TEAM MEMBERS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CHOSEN TO ASSURE CROSS-SECTION OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE. MEMBERS ARE PRESENTLY UNDERGOING TWO-DAY ROUND OF BRIEFINGS AT DOD AND STATE WITH EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF TEAM'S MISSION IN TERMS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH JORDAN. NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS AND ETA AMMAN BEING SENT YOU BY SEPTTEL.

2. TEAM WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS ALL TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF AIR DEFENSE WITH JORDANIAN OFFICIALS, TO INCLUDE CHARACTERISTICS OF AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND POSSIBLE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 028296

COMBINATIONS OF THESE SYSTEMS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES.

THEY MAY ALSO COMMENT ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF PROPOSALS AND ILLUSTRATIVE PACKAGES THE JORDANIANS MAY HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, WHITE HOUSE DIRECTIVE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS THE TEAM FROM DISCUSSING WITH JORDANIANS THE OPTIONS IT WILL PREPARE FOR REVIEW AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF USG.

3. JORDANIANS SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT WE WILL PROVIDE GOJ WITH A REPORT OF THE TEAM'S STUDY FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN TO THE U.S. FYI: IN VIEW OF THE SPECIFIC WHITE HOUSE PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS WITH THE JORDANIANS, THE TEAM WILL BE REQUESTED TO PREPARE A SEPARATE REPORT WHICH WILL BE CLEARED BY THE WHITE HOUSE BEFORE BEING RELEASED TO THE GOJ. END FYI.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THIRD COUNTRY SYSTEMS IS OUTSIDE SCOPE OF TEAM'S MISSION AS DEFINED BY WHITE HOUSE. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO TEAM MEMBERS DISCUSSING SUCH SYSTEMS WITH JORDANIANS IN GENERAL TERMS ON BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH OPEN SOURCES.

5. RE YOUR COMMENT ON FUNDING, TEAM MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT QUESTION OF GENERAL AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR JORDAN ARMED FORCES, AS THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A CONSIDERATION OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO HAVE TEAM SEEK TO DELVE INTO JORDANIAN FINANCES IN A WAY THAT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING OR CAUSE FRICTION IN U.S.-JORDANIAN RELATIONS.

6. YOU WILL NOTE THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE STIPULATE THAT THERE WILL BE NO UNAUTHORIZED OFFICIAL COMMENT ON TEAM ACTIVITIES AND THAT ANY PRESS INQUIRIES IN FIELD WILL BE ANSWERED WITH NO COMMENT AND REFERRED TO WASHINGTON. WE ARE PREPARING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR ISSUANCE IN WASHINGTON ON TEAM VISIT IN EVENT ITS PRESENCE IN JORDAN BECOMES KNOWN. SINCE THIS COULD OCCUR THROUGH INADVERTENT LEAK BY GOJ, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CAUTIONING SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS RE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING PUBLICITY RE TEAM'S PRESENCE IN JORDAN. KISSINGER

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